PSEUDO-FAMILY PROGRAM
WHERE STUDENTS PICKED AT RANDOM ARE TO START A "FAMILY"
AND RIVAL OTHER "FAMILIES" TO IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE STARTING FROM POVERTY
マイハウス
BARANOMIYA GIRLS' ACADEMY
IN THIS HISTORIC GARDEN OF GIRLS FROM NOBLE FAMILIES, A REVOLUTION HAS OCCURRED.

THIS IS THE STORY OF
NATSUKAWA HARUHI, WHO WAS SUDDENLY FORCED TO ENROLL AS A DOUBLE,
ALONG WITH HER PRETEND-WIFE AND CHILDREN,
ON HER DAILY STRUGGLES IN THE MAIDENS' BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL.

第7話 WHAT I CAN DO

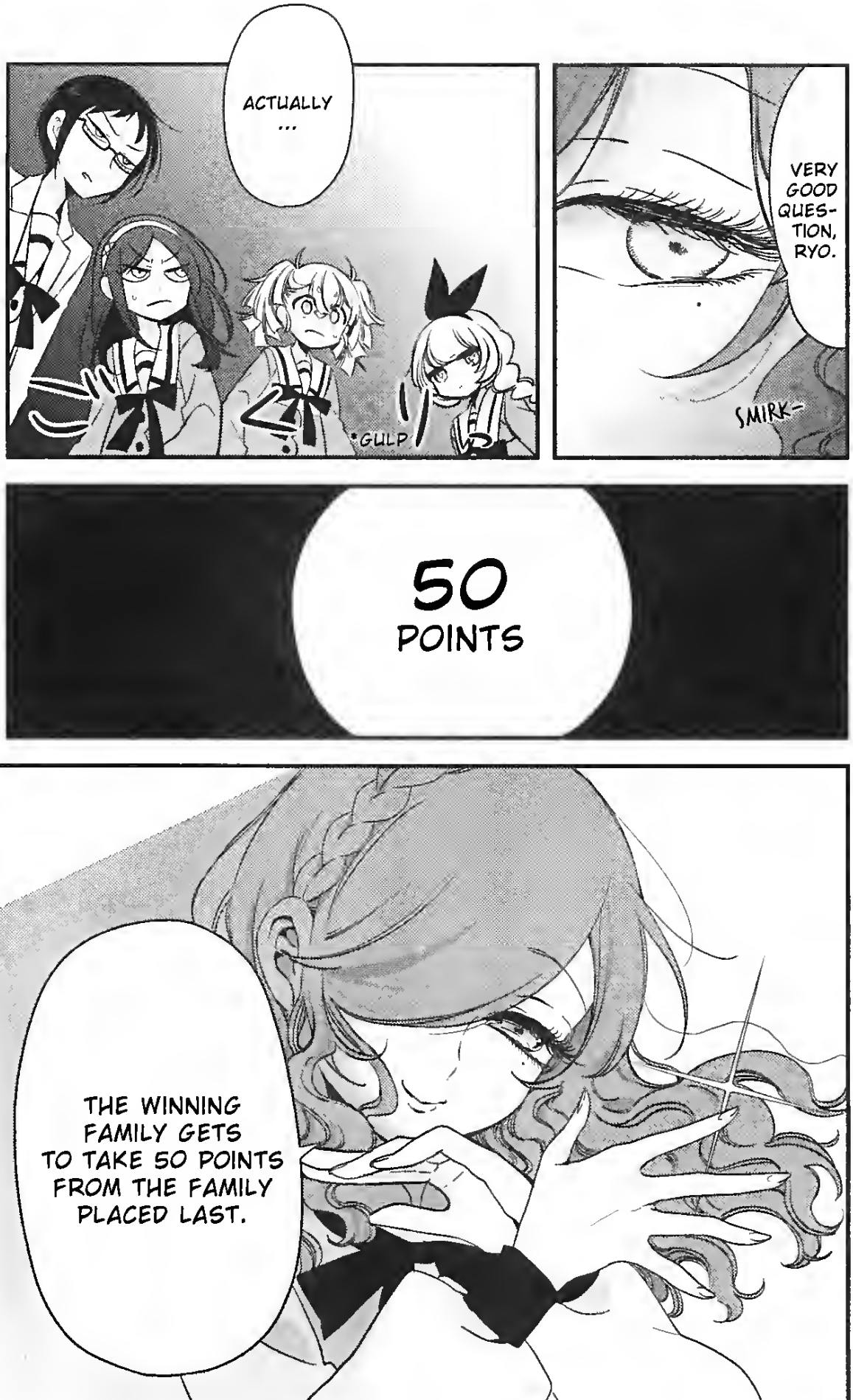
BO
OM

FOR SOME REASON, THIS IS DRIVING ME TO TEARS..!!
SHUDDER
FRESH GROCERIES THAT ARE NOT CANNED...!! WE HAVEN'T HAD THESE IN A WHILE..!!
GROC-ERIES !!!!
*CLAP
*CLAP
NOW NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT WE'RE ALL EXCITED FROM THE RATIONS,
BUT LET'S ALL CALM DOWN FOR A SECOND.
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET.

THE PROGRAM PLANNED BY THE HIGHER-UPS AND SCHEDULED IN 3 DAYS:
→DINNER DASH←
THERE'S A COUPLE OF RULES THAT CAME WITH THE RATIONS:
ALL COOKING MUST BE DONE BY THE MOTHER AND THE ELDEST DAUGHTER.
AND
THAT IT MUST BE PRESENTED IN FRONT OF THE GUESTS.
THAT'S WHAT IT SAYS.

I NEED TO COOK...
RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE HIGHER-UPS...
ME...?
WH..WHAT DO I DO... I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFI-DENCE...
AND WITH TOKIWA -SENPAI, JUST THE TWO OF US ...?
BUT... BUT MAYBE ...
STARE-
AYUMI VISION
HM?
SPARKLE-
*THROB

MA... MAYBE
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
THAT'S RIGHT, MAYBE IF I COOK A PROPER MEAL
THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE THAT FATHER WILL PRAISE ME...!!!
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
!
FWP-
OKAY, SO QUESTION
AND SHE WIPES HER HANDS WHEN I TOUCH THEM
MAYBE SHE REALLY DOES HATE ME...
I GET THE FEELING THAT AT A HIGH PROBABILITY, SHE AVERTS HER EYES EVERY TIME OUR EYES MEET.
BA-DUMP
DO WE GET ANY REWARDS OR PENALTIES
DEPENDING ON THE EVALUATION?

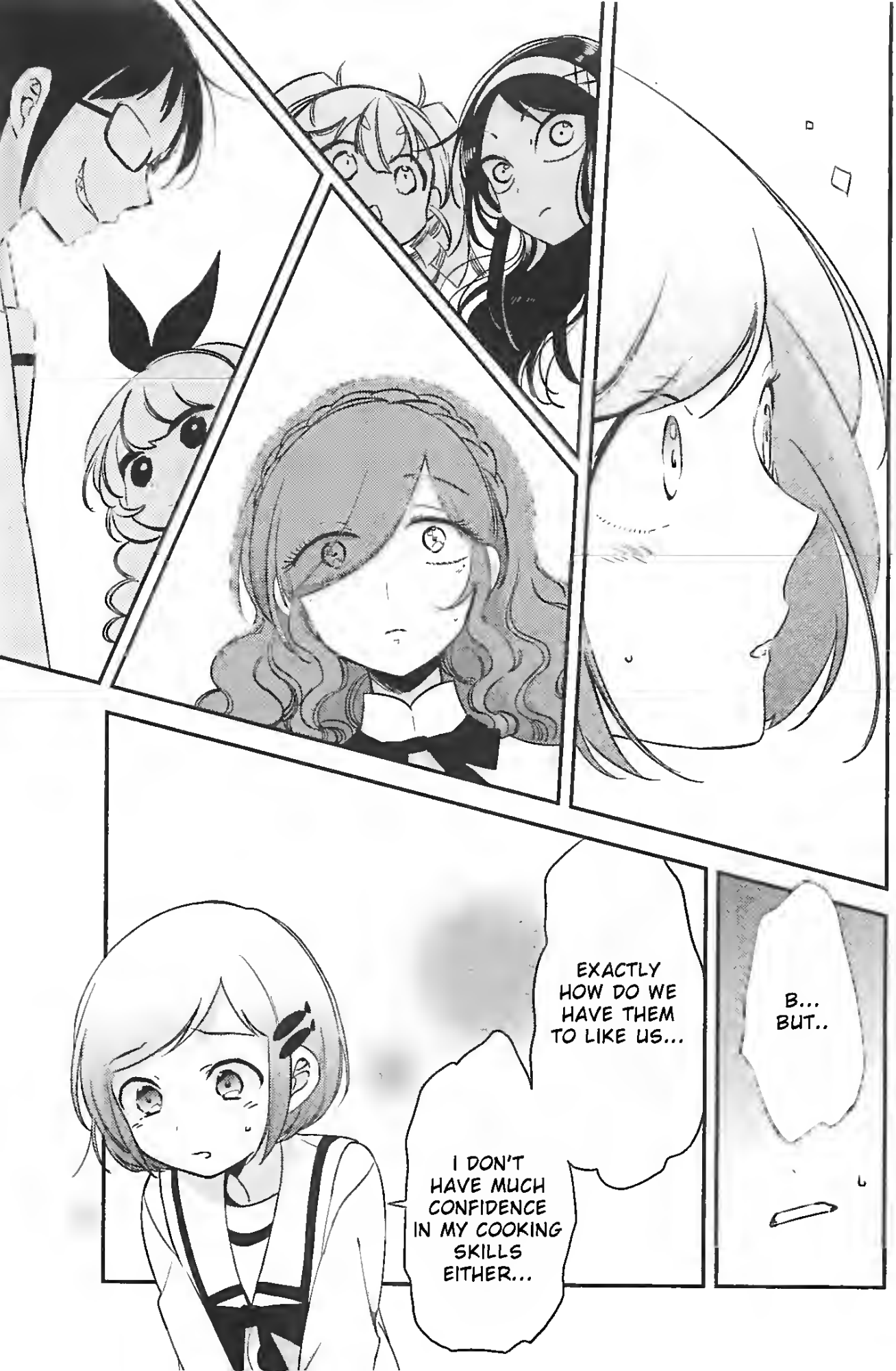

ACTUALLY ...
*GULP
VERY GOOD QUES-TION, RYO.
SMIRK-
50
POINTS
THE WINNING FAMILY GETS TO TAKE 50 POINTS FROM THE FAMILY PLACED LAST.

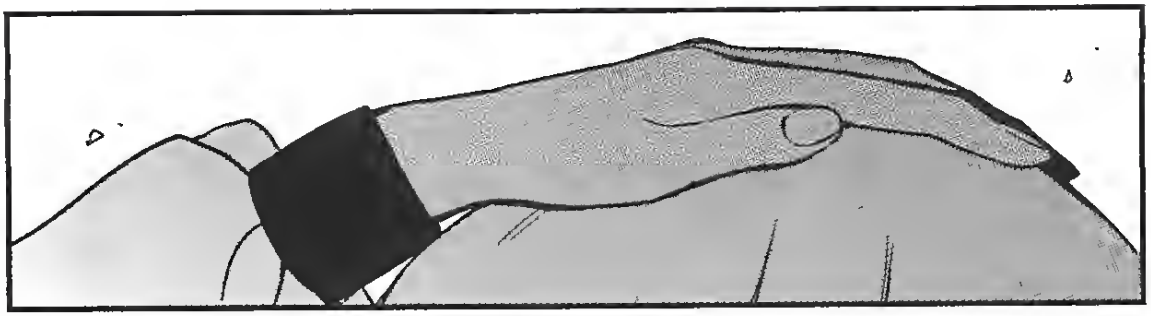
50
POINTS..!!
THAT'S EXACTLY ENOUGH TO COVER FOR MY MISTAKE FROM LAST TIME...

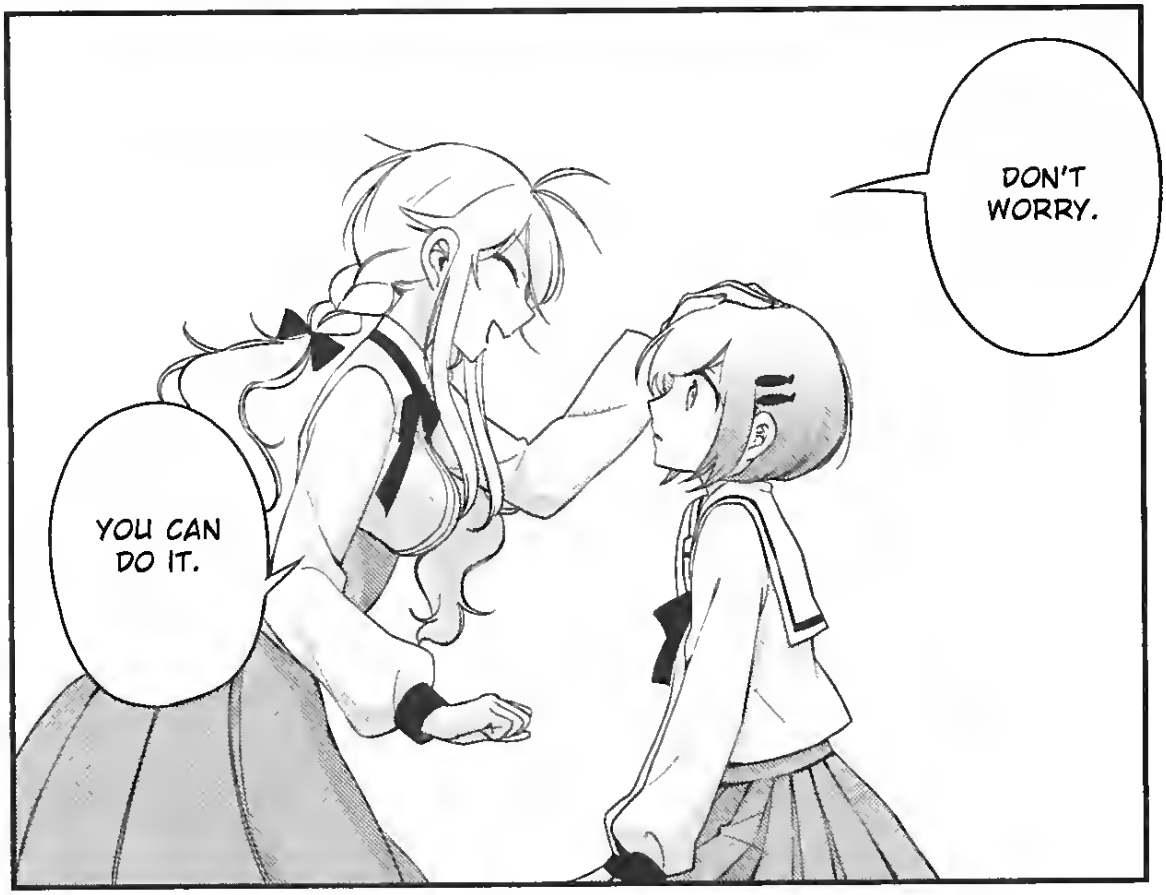
FI...FIFTY POINTS... WHAT IF WE PLACE LAST FROM MY FAULT...
WAAAAAAAH-
the risk is high too.
メーラッ
HIGHER-UPS ARE PRETTY POWERFUL PEOPLE, RIGHT? WHY CAN'T THEY GIVE US LIKE, A HUNDRED POINTS?
ポヤー
WE'LL TAKE THEM BACK FROM THE KATAGIRI FAMILY FOR SURE ...
CLENCH-

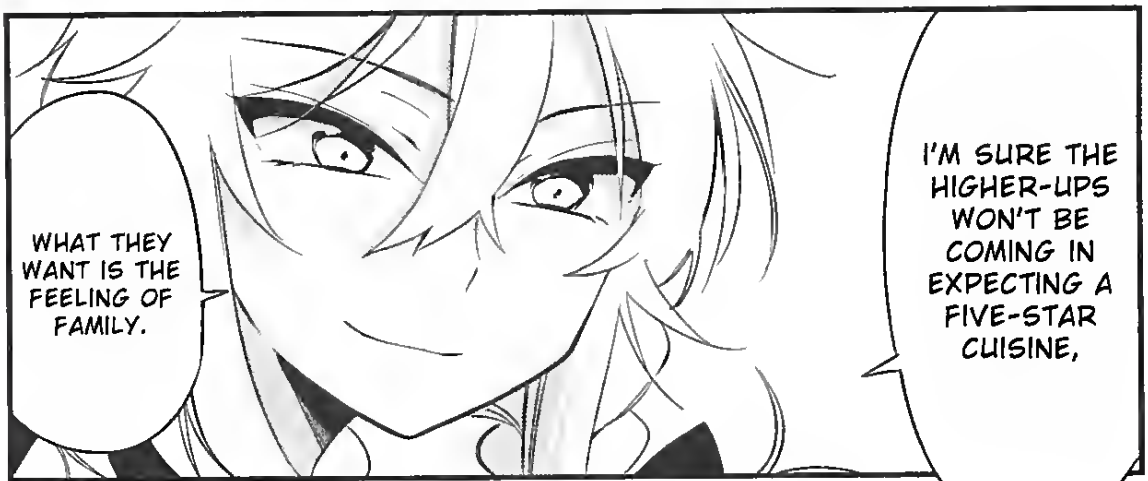
SO POINTS?
NO, WE WON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT.
LISTEN UP, THIS IS A PERFECT CHANCE.
THIS EVENT HAS A WORTH WAY GREATER THAN JUST 50 POINTS.
THE GUESTS WILL BE HIGHER-UPS FROM THE DEPARTMENT THAT PLANNED THE PSEUDO-FAMILY PROGRAM.
SO LET'S STOP WITH THE SMALL TALK.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY: WE'LL USE THIS OPPRTUNITY TO MAKE SURE THE HIGHER-UPS FAVOUR US,
AND GET ONE STEP CLOSER TO PULLING THE PRESIDENT DOWN!


B... BUT..
EXACTLY HOW DO WE HAVE THEM TO LIKE US...
I DON'T HAVE MUCH CONFIDENCE IN MY COOKING SKILLS EITHER...

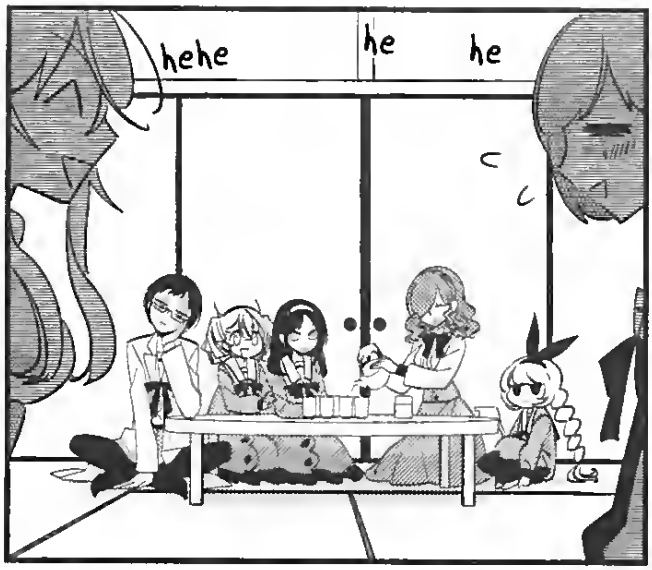


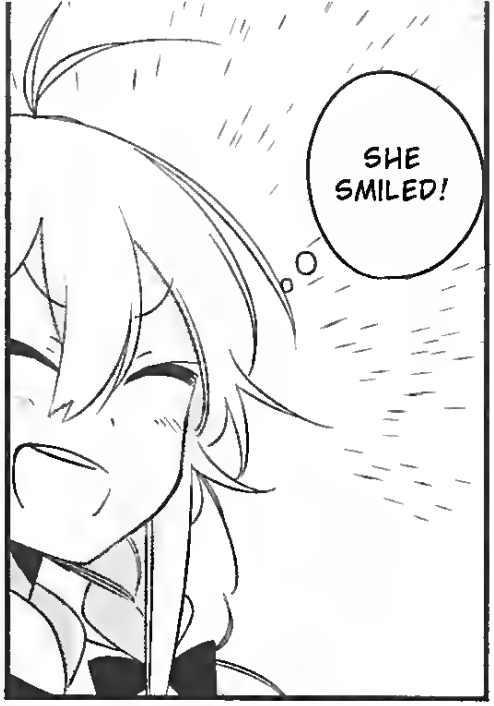

DON'T WORRY.
YOU CAN DO IT.


I'M SURE THE HIGHER-UPS WON'T BE COMING IN EXPECTING A FIVE-STAR CUISINE,
WHAT THEY WANT IS THE FEELING OF FAMILY.

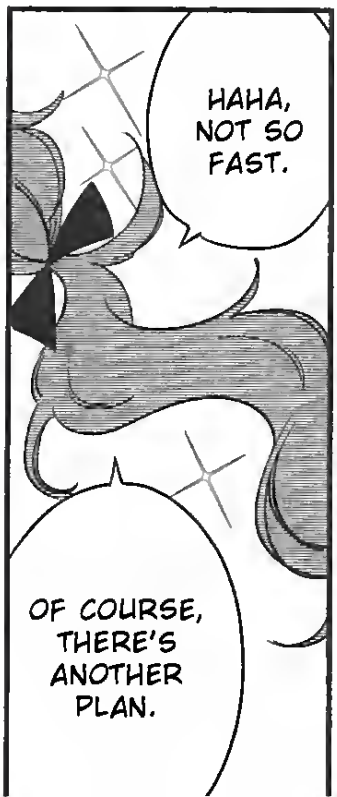
SURE, A PRO-LEVEL DISH IS GREAT TOO,
BUT I'D RATHER WANT TO EAT AN HONEST DISH THAT YOU COOKED ALL FOR ME.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT OUR FAMILY AND PUT YOUR HEART AND SOUL INTO IT,
I'M SURE THAT FEELING WILL GO THROUGH.

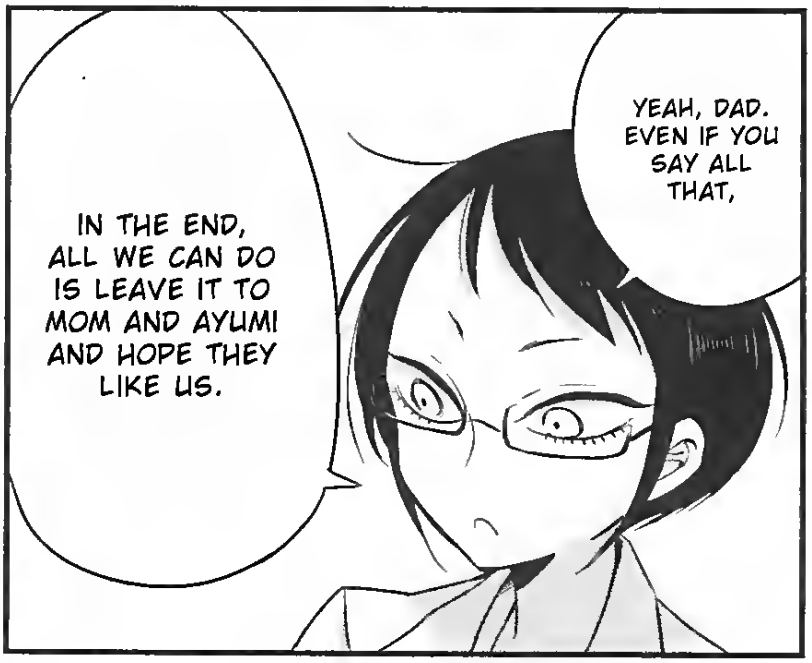
..YOU SURE ARE STRANGE, FATHER.
JUST FROM HEARING YOU SAY THAT, IT ALMOST MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I CAN DO IT
smile
I'LL PUT ALL MY HEART INTO IT!


hehe
he
he

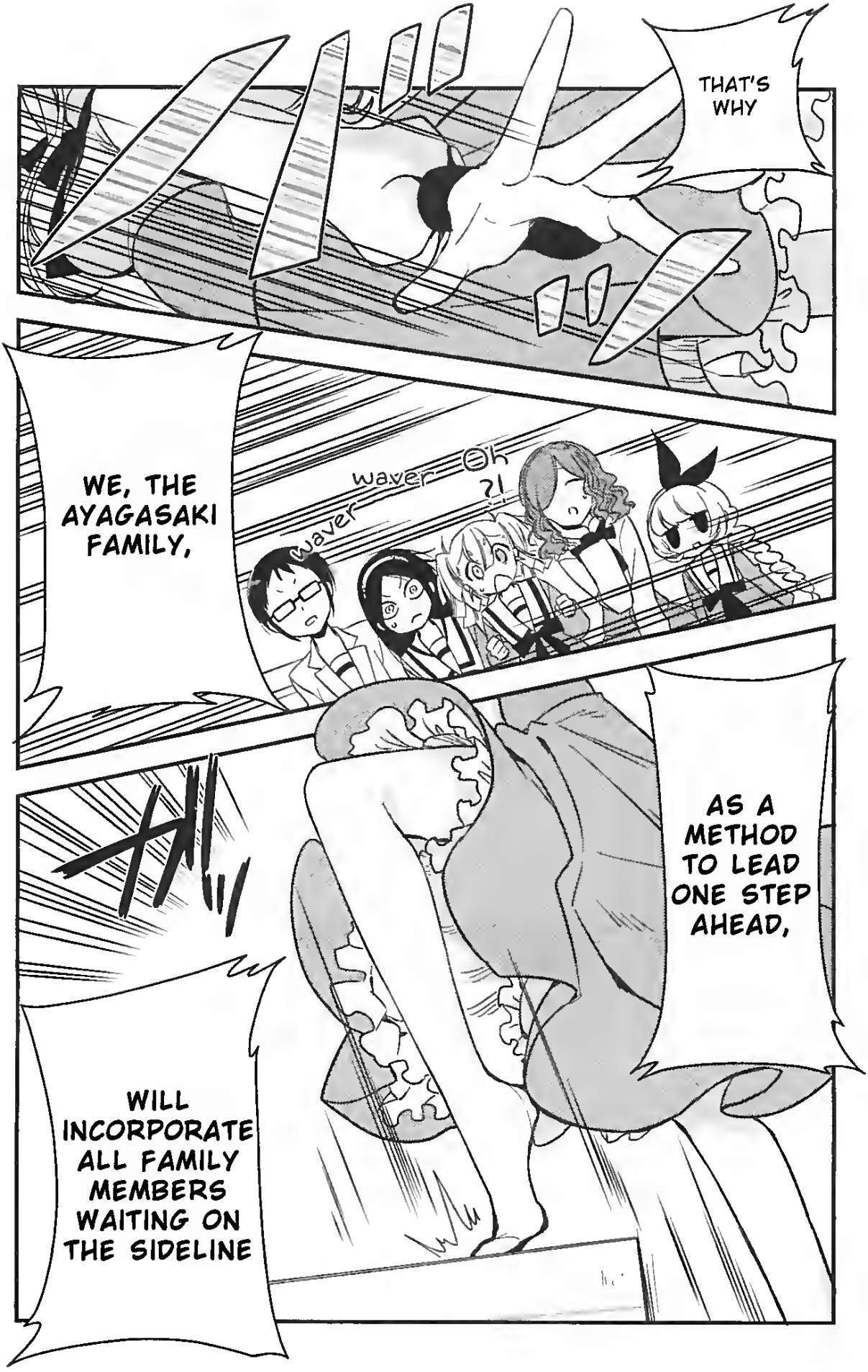

SHE SMILED!

I'm getting worried
SO I DO AGREE THAT ATTITUDE WILL ALSO BE ACCOUNTED FOR, BUT...
WELL, YES. THEY ARE BOTHERING TO COME SEE US COOK...
They sure are close...
REALLY NOW... LEAVING ME, THE WIFE, OFF TO THE SIDE...

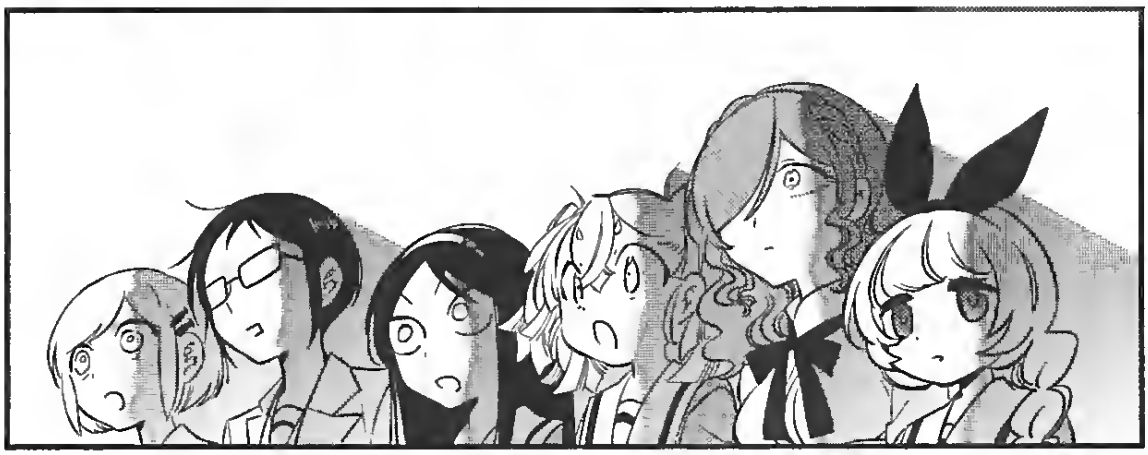

HAHA, NOT SO FAST.
OF COURSE, THERE'S ANOTHER PLAN.


IN THE END, ALL WE CAN DO IS LEAVE IT TO MOM AND AYUMI AND HOPE THEY LIKE US.
YEAH, DAD. EVEN IF YOU SAY ALL THAT,

THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT WHO COOKS THE BEST HERE,
BUT NO, THIS EVENT IS TO JUDGE -≫PSEUDO-FAMILY≪- IN ITS ENTIRETY.
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE OTHER FAMILIES WILL ALSO TRY TO COOK THE MOST DELICIOUS DISH
IF WE DO THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE DOES,
THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO WIN.


THAT'S WHY
WE, THE AYAGASAKI FAMILY,
waver
waver
Oh ?!
AS A METHOD TO LEAD ONE STEP AHEAD,
WILL INCORPORATE ALL FAMILY MEMBERS WAITING ON THE SIDELINE

BAM
AND USE THE ART OF RE·CEP·TION☆ TO MAKE SURE THEY TOTALLY FALL FOR US!!!



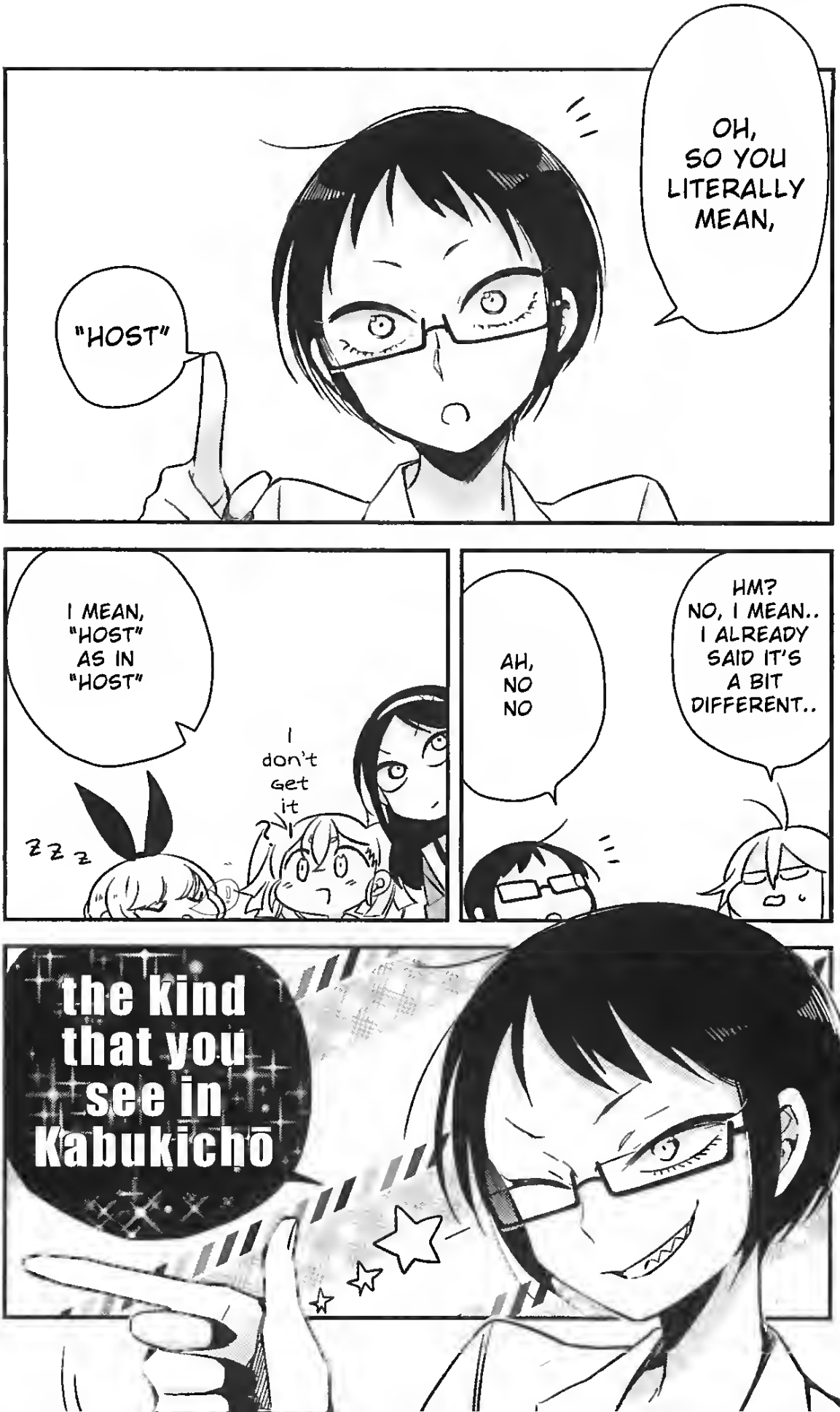
Yep
Yep
AND
WELL, THAT'S THAT, SO...
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME UNTIL THE EVENT,
SO LET'S DIVIDE UP INTO COOKING TEAM AND RECEPTION TEAM AND GET TO PRACTICE RIGHT AWAY!

THERE'S A VARIETY OF INGREDIENTS, BUT I WONDER WHAT IS BEST TO MAKE...
HM...
LET'S SEE...
WHAT IS IT?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT
I'VE RECENTLY MADE A TREMENDOUS DISCOVERY
IF YOU TAKE THIS
turn
AND TURN IT,

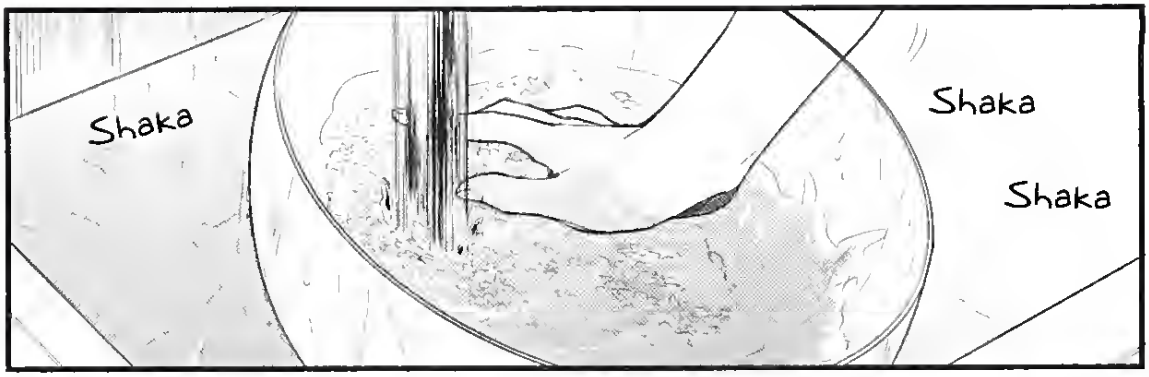
ボッ
FWP-
AND THEN FLIP THE SWITCH ON THE STOVE,
IT GOES ON FIRE ♡
I'M GLAD OUR NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS WEREN'T IN VAIN, MOTHER!!
WE'VE ONLY BEEN USING THE MICROWAVE UP UNTIL NOW,
BUT WITH THIS, COOKING WILL BE MUCH EASIER ♡

SO,
WHAT ARE WE DOING EXACTLY, WITH THAT "ART OF RECEPTION?"
ACTUALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING PLANNED OUT.
EH-
wait a..
BANG
AND THAT'S WHY WE'LL BE HAVING A MEETING TO DISCUSS IT RIGHT NOW
?
GENERALLY, WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD, "RECEPTION"?

THEN FULFILLING YOUR DUTY AS HOST OF THE PARTY SHOULD BE THE ISSUE.
YOU SAY "RECEPTION", BUT IN THE END, IT'S JUST GREETING THE GUESTS, CORRECT?
I'D SAY THAT'S MORE OF A "WELCOMING" THAN "RECEPTION"...
I've never hosted a party y'know...
AS I THOUGHT, WHAT A CELEB-LIKE ANSWER..
considering how cute you are, I'll be bringing in a 100 of them next time.
Ha Ha Ha
as expected of you, president, you have such good tastes!
Wowie—president—
You're so——
cool——!
IT'S MORE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL OF BEING LIKED,
YOU BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WHERE GIVING EACH OTHER GIFTS ARE COMMON,
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A MATTER OF WHAT THEY DESIRE, MORE THAN POLITENESS
Hee Hee
Hee Hee
EVIL FACE
WHAT'S THE DIFF-ERENCE!?

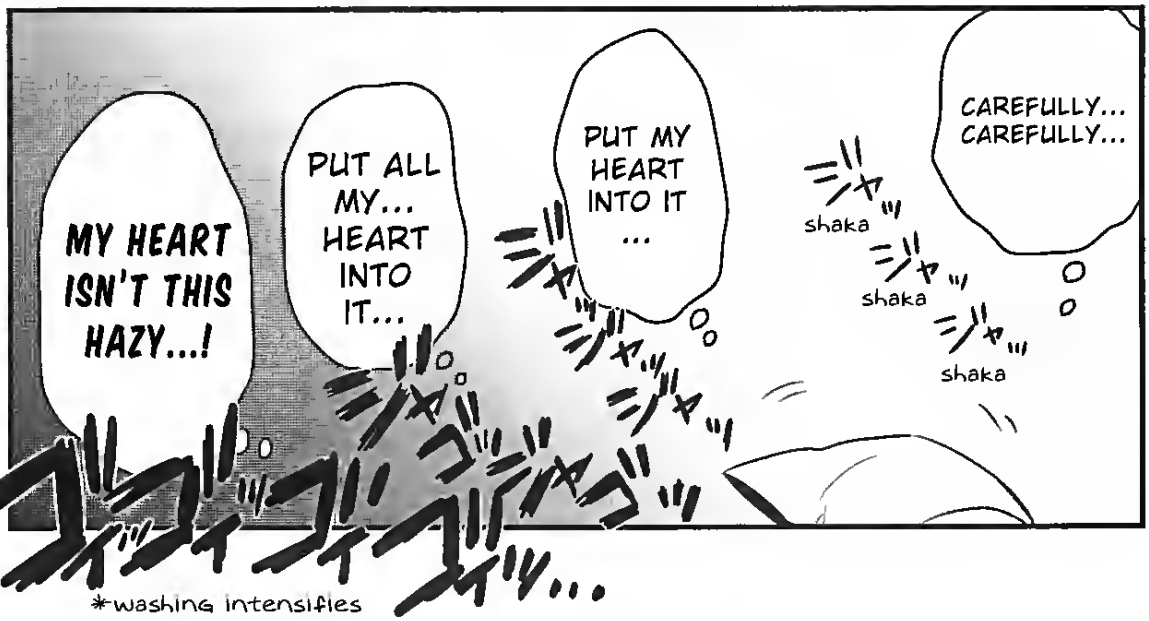

OH, SO YOU LITERALLY MEAN,
"HOST"
HM? NO, I MEAN.. I ALREADY SAID IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT..
AH, NO NO
I MEAN, "HOST" AS IN "HOST"
I don't get it
ZZZ
the kind that you see in Kabukichō

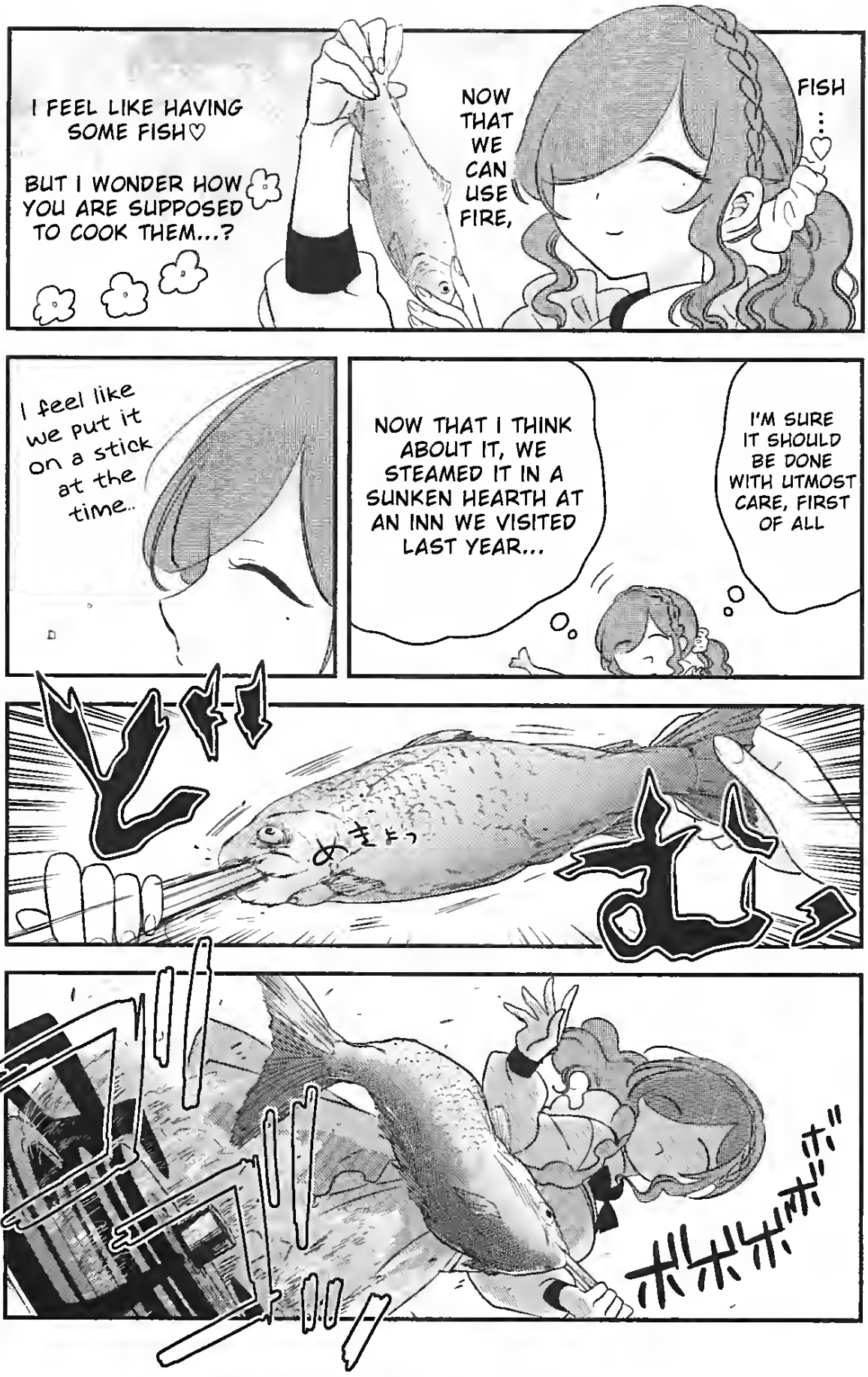
AND IT'S YOUR SPECIALTY, TOO, ISN'T IT!!
YOU PLAYBOY!
hahaha, stop it
PAT
PAT
THAT'S IT, RYO!!!
ATTA BOY!!!
AH,
GASP-
NOW, NOW, DON'T SAY THAT!
how indecent
and paltry
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!!


Shaka
Shaka
Shaka

BY THE TIME THE WATER BECOMES CLEAN AND CLEAR ...
SO WILL I...

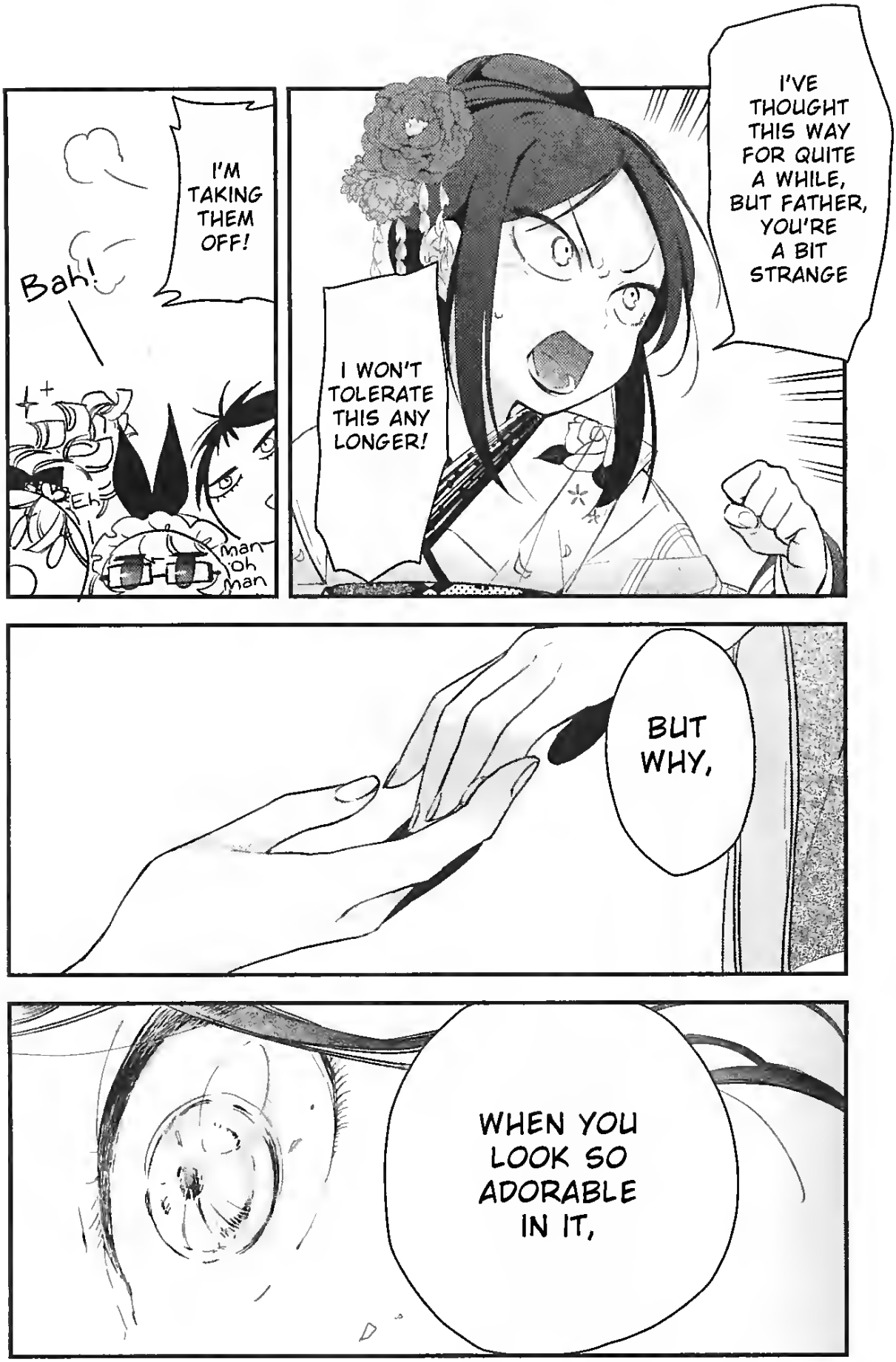
BUT IF I PUT MY MIND INTO IT, SURELY...
THE GRAY-NESS ISN'T FADING SO EASILY ...


MY HEART ISN'T THIS HAZY...!
PUT ALL MY... HEART INTO IT...
PUT MY HEART INTO IT ...
CAREFULLY... CAREFULLY...
shaka
shaka
shaka
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ...
*washing intensifies


I FEEL LIKE HAVING SOME FISH♡
BUT I WONDER HOW YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO COOK THEM...?
NOW THAT WE CAN USE FIRE,
FISH...♡
I feel like we put it on a stick at the time..
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WE STEAMED IT IN A SUNKEN HEARTH AT AN INN WE VISITED LAST YEAR...
I'M SURE IT SHOULD BE DONE WITH UTMOST CARE, FIRST OF ALL
ボボボボ

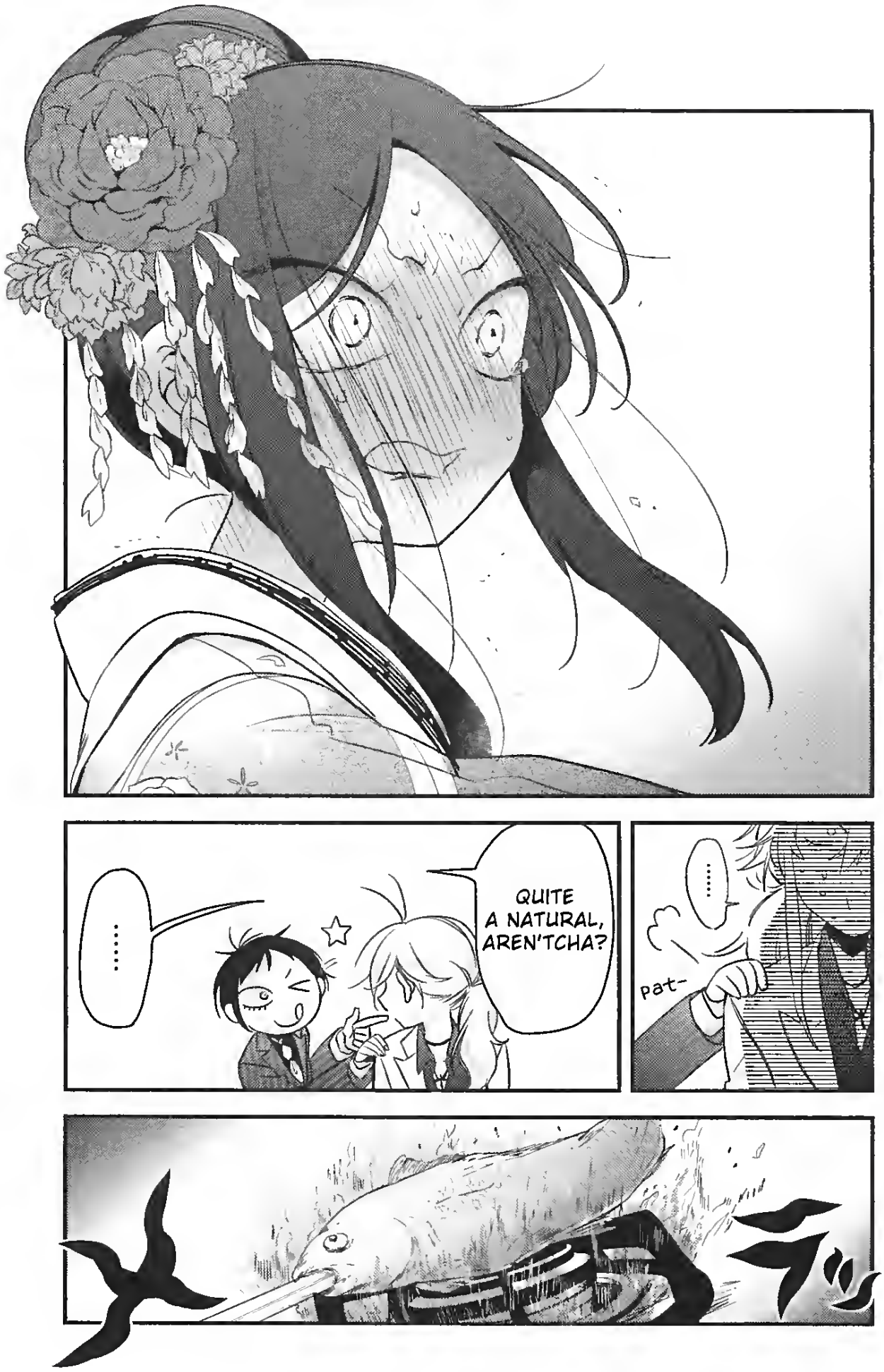
THERE WE GO,
LOOKIN' GOOD,
LOOKIN' GOOD♪
OH
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, CULTURAL LESSONS..?
MAKING ME DRESS UP IN A KIMONO ...

AND AN AKIBA MAID.
A CABARET GIRL,
A MAIKO,
YOU'RE A PRO AT THIS
I'M NOT SURE IF THE HIGHER-UPS ARE MEN OR WOMEN, BUT THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK♪
HUH?!
DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT THIS PLAN IS GOING TO WORK?!


I'M TAKING THEM OFF!
Bah!
Eh
man oh man
I WON'T TOLERATE THIS ANY LONGER!
I'VE THOUGHT THIS WAY FOR QUITE A WHILE, BUT FATHER, YOU'RE A BIT STRANGE
BUT WHY,
WHEN YOU LOOK SO ADORABLE IN IT,

YOU'RE THE CUTEST GIRL IN THE WORLD.
SO PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT.

DOEEE EEEEE EEEEE EEEEE
Huff.
Huff.
Ow...
jitter
CHIKAKO! YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO GO AS FAR AS TO PUN-
fwap


QUITE A NATURAL, AREN'TCHA?
.....
.....
pat-

Opapagoto ch. 7
Translator's notes:

Kabukichō is an is an entertainment and red-light district in Shinjuku, home of many host(ess) clubs.
this may explain Chikako's reaction to Ryo's answer.

"cultural lessons" (お稽古事 okeikogoto) where keiko (稽古) means, "to practice something" are traditional studies that include cooking, flower arrangement, tea ceremonies and such for girls to becoming an ideal housewife. The term nowadays is used generally to define practises of anything other than academics, but in this case, it means the traditional kind.

A maiko is an apprentice geiko, whose job is to perform songs, dances, and of the sorts to entertain guests at feasts.